REMARKS

The Office Action dated March 19, 2008 has been fully considered by the Applicant.

Enclosed is a Petition for Two-Month Extension of Time and a check in the amount of $460 to cover the government fee.

Enclosed is a Transmittal of Revocation of Power of Attorney By Assignee and Change of Correspondence Address & Attorney Docket Number. Also enclosed is the fully executed Revocation of Power of Attorney By Assignee.

Claims 1, 7 and 8 have been currently amended. Claims 2-6, and 9 have been previously presented.

Claims 7 and 8 have been rejected under 35 USC § 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter. Claims 7 and 8 have been currently amended to overcome the rejection. Reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-9 have been rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by United States Publication No. 2004/0239683 to Chu et al. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the rejection.

Applicant's currently amended independent claim 1 provides for a method for navigating through a displayed hierarchical data structure including a parent node and a plurality of child nodes the method comprising the steps of: (a) displaying the parent node at a parent position and displaying each of the plurality of child nodes at a respective child node position; (b) assigning a parent relevance grade to the parent node and assigning a respective relevance grade to each of the plurality of child nodes; (c) navigating through the displayed hierarchical data structure; (d) automatically hiding, upon navigation through the displayed hierarchical data structure, a child node of the plurality of child nodes, based upon the respective relevance grade of child node with respect to user

navigation position at that instant; and (e) displaying a reference node at a reference node position instead of displaying the hidden child node, wherein the reference node position is related to the child node position.

Applicant's provision of automatically hiding, upon navigation through the display hierarchical data structure, a child node of the plurality of child nodes, based upon the respective relevance grade of child node with respect to user navigation position at that instant is not taught or suggested in the Chu et al publication. A rejection under Section 102 is only proper if all of the claim limitations are disclosed in a cited reference. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the rejection.

In the Chu et al publication, the collapsing/expansion of nodes is dependent on a user manually selecting to perform this action (see Page 4, Paragraph 43). A user of the Chu et al publication may click on the '+' or '-' sign to collapse or expand the node.

In contrast, Applicant's present invention describes how, on the user scrolling the display to view a particular node, other nodes are automatically expanded/collapsed to provide the optimum display of the tree to the user. The relevance grade can be used to determine if the mode should remain displayed or if the node should be automatically hidden.

Applicant's invention has the advantage that as a user scrolls through the hierarchical structure, the structure automatically reconfigures to show the user the most relevant information, thereby maximizing the amount of useful information displayed to the user.

Applicant's invention overcomes the problem that may be present in the Chu publication, where the user can become lost in the structure if many child nodes are present at the same level and the parent node is hidden as, for example, shown in Figure 10b where the parent of item 62 is unidentifiable so the user does not know where they are in the structure.

Applicant believes that currently amended claim 1, along with dependent claims 2-6, is not taught or suggested in the Chu et al publication and respectfully requests reconsideration of the rejection.

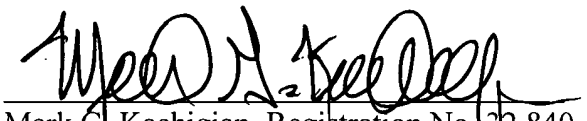
Independent claim 7 has been currently amended to provide for a computer configured for navigating through a displayed hierarchical data structure including a parent node and a plurality of child nodes. The computer comprises (a) display means conceived to display the parent node at a parent position and to display each of the plurality of child nodes at a respective child node position; (b) assign means conceived to assign a parent relevance grade to the parent node and assign a respective relevance grade to each of the plurality of child nodes; (c) navigation means conceived to navigate through the displayed hierarchical data structure; (d) hiding means conceived to automatically hide, upon navigation through the displayed hierarchical data structure, a child node of the plurality of child nodes, based upon the respective relevance grade of the child node with respect to the user navigation position at that instant; (e) the display means is further conceived to display a reference node at a reference node position instead of displaying the hidden child node, wherein the reference node position is related to the child node position.

Clearly, Applicant's computer having as a part thereof the hiding means conceived to automatically hide, upon navigation through the display hierarchical data structure, a child node of the plurality of child nodes, based upon the respective relevance grade of child node with respect to the user navigation position at that instant is not taught or suggested in the Chu et al publication. A rejection under Section 102 is only proper if all of the claim limitations are disclosed in a prior art reference. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the rejection.

It is believed that the application is now in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited. If any further issues remain, a telephone conference with the Examiner is requested. If any additional fees are required, please charge Deposit Account No. 08-1500.

HEAD, JOHNSON & KACHIGIAN

Respectfully submitted,



Mark G. Kachigian, Registration No. 32,840
Head, Johnson & Kachigian
228 West 17th Place, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74119
(918) 587-2000
Attorneys for Applicant

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